FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

OF

THE CHURCH CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

The Board of Governors of the Church Club respectfully present this, the First Annual Report:

When the Club came into possession of its rooms in the Church House, a year ago, there were on the roll 126 members. During the past year there have been added 100 members; and there have been lost by resignation 8, and by death 2 members; leaving a membership now on the roll of 216 members.

This increase is not so great as had been expected; but it is sufficiently marked to warrant the opinion that the Club is well established, and the confident expectation that a large number will be added to its membership during the coming year.

The rooms of the Club have been attractively furnished and well provided with current literature, but the book shelves are very bare. One of our members has generously donated a set of books, and it is hoped that others will do likewise. A well-selected library would be a great addition.

By direction of the Board, the Corresponding Secretary addressed letters to all the Bishops of the Anglican Communion, 227 in number, requesting their photographs with autographs thereon, intending this collection to be placed in the Club Rooms. At this date photographs have been received from 72 Bishops of the Church in the United States and from 66 Bishops of the Church of England and of her Colonies. It is expected that this valuable collection will be suitably mounted and exhibited by the incoming Board of Governors.

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During the past year there have been seven Club nights at which carefully prepared papers have been read on topics of current interest, followed by a discussion of the subject. These meetings have been fairly well attended; but it is very desirable that the attendance, and the participation in the discussions, should be more general.

Three lectures have been delivered under the auspices of the Club. The lecturers were: Rev. William B. Hale, Rev. W. S. Rainsford, D.D., and Rev. J. Lewis Parks, D.D. The very slight interest in these lectures shown not only by the public, but particularly by the members of the Club themselves, was very mortifying. If this feature of our work is to continue, it is earnestly hoped that, for the honor of the Club, its members will make it a point to attend upon those who are invited to address them.

Three dinners have been given, to which each member of the Club has had the privilege of inviting two guests. The arrangements for these were admirable and they were thoroughly enjoyed by the participants.

This scheme of work has been well considered and is deserving of a better support by the members of the Club. If encouraged to do so, it would be well to add more opportunities for intercourse between the members, and to take up the consideration of such practical questions as how to bring the Church's influence to bear upon the large masses of irreligious persons in our City.

By order of the Board of Governors

W. W. Frazier, *President.*

Philadelphia, December 1, 1896.